

**OSVALDO MORRONE**  
**(11 DEC 1957–18 OCT 2011)**

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After Osvaldo's passing, I, as his wife and collaborator, received so many heartfelt words from friends, family, and colleagues, which comforted me after such a difficult and sad time. First of all, I need to thank everyone for their love and kindness.

Osvaldo, only 53 years old, was recognized by the botanical society for all his contributions during a short but significant career. I invite those who want to learn details of his contributions to take a look at the issue of *Darwiniana* 49(2):257–262. 2011. In addition, an intimate glimpse into his personality, as seen by his friends Fernando Zuloaga and Elizabeth "Toby" Kellogg, can be seen in the following links:

<http://www.ojs.darwin.edu.ar/index.php/darwiniana/article/view/326/318> and  
[http://www.aspt.net/publications/newsletter/in\\_memoriam.php](http://www.aspt.net/publications/newsletter/in_memoriam.php), respectively.

He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP-Argentina) and received his Ph.D. in Natural Sciences, in 1989. As a post-doc he was a research fellow of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution in Washington; the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis; and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, USA. He was employed by the CONICET-Argentina where he became Principal Scientific Researcher, working at the Instituto de Botánica Darwinion. There, he was also involved as subdirector.

He developed various research areas at the Instituto Darwinion, and completed significant manuscripts; he also directed several theses. He contributed to the formation of many students who were trained in the taxonomy and systematics of different genera of the family Poaceae, as well as additional plant groups like orchids. Among the students he mentored, who are now developing a research career, are: Maria Amelia Chemisquy, Diego De Gennaro, Diego Giraldo Cañas, Silvia S. Denham, Sabina Donadío, Hugo Gutierrez, Verónica Kern, Nataly O'Leary, Alicia López, Diego L. Salaricato, and others. Since 2004, Osvaldo and I were particularly involved in many research projects in molecular systematics at the Darwinion Institute. Being so close to him, I had the advantage of learning from his expertise, and his way of appreciating plant science.

At the end of his career, Osvaldo collaborated on the recent contribution to the Poaceae phylogeny with the GPWGII, in *New Phytologist*, 2012, and accomplished significant work on the re-classification of the tribe Paniceae (Poaceae); Morrone et al., in *Cladistics*, 2012 (28, no. 4, pp. 333–356, August). This work not only represents his taxonomic and evolutionary knowledge and expertise on this panicoid tribe, but also the unconditional support of his working group. For all those people who were so close to him during these four years in which he battled cancer, Osvaldo was a role model and a living example of happiness, friendship, and professional work. To everyone involved, I express a sincere thank you for being so close to him.

Osvaldo's other major contributions were close to completion and will soon be finished, including the phylogeny of *Nassella* and allies, the phylogeny of *Paspalum*, a revision of the Old World *Setaria*, the biogeography of Poaceae, and the contribution to the Chilean Flora. Several contributions that are still awaiting publication represent collaborative projects with colleagues in different working lines, namely Rob Soreng and Paul Peterson, Fernando Zuloaga, Elizabeth "Toby" Kellogg, and Pilar Catalán. Although he benefitted greatly from





Osvaldo Morrone collecting *Bipinnula montana* Arechav. (Orchidaceae) in Uruguay (Depto. Minas, Cerro Verdum, Morrone & Giussani, 6316, SI) in October 2010. Photo by Lilliana Giussani.

their expertise, he put even greater value on their friendship. I offer a special thank you to Pilar, for such a wonderful and productive time in Spain.

I consider myself enormously lucky for having met Osvaldo and fallen in love with him. We had a beautiful son and shared a life, family, friends, and our profession. I would like to give special thanks to other friends who made a difference in his life and shared unforgettable moments, especially to Horacio, Patri, Pichi, Dundi, Fernanda, Gus, Marieta, Mario, Guille, Silvana, Javier, Pablo, Ani, Lili, Normi, and all Darwinion friends, family and children.

Other personal memories will stay in my heart.